



IN THE CLAIMS AMEND

1. (Currently Amended) An artificial bone comprising:
 - a substrate material, wherein the substrate material comprises a molded polymer having a plurality of closed cells; and
 - ~~at least one of~~ a suppression component which limits dusting, chipping and cracking of the substrate material, the suppression component impregnated into at least one of the plurality of closed cells; ~~and an x-ray component dispersed within the substrate material.~~
2. (Currently Amended) The artificial bone of claim 1 further comprising an ~~each of the suppression component and the x-ray component~~ dispersed within the substrate material in a quantity sufficient to render the artificial bone substantially opaque to an x-ray.
3. (Original) The artificial bone of claim 1 wherein the substrate material comprises a polyurethane material having a plurality of closed cells.
4. (Original) The artificial bone of claim 1 wherein the substrate material comprises one of the group consisting of: polyethylene, polypropylene and polymeric resins.
5. (Currently Amended) The artificial bone of claim 2 ~~4~~ wherein the x-ray component comprises a plurality of barium components.

6. (Currently Amended) The artificial bone of claim 2 + wherein the x-ray component comprises about 10% by weight of the substrate material such that the quantity of x-ray component is sufficient to render the artificial bone substantially opaque to an x-ray.

7. (Original) The artificial bone of claim 1 wherein the suppression component comprises a propylene glycol material.

8. (Original) The artificial bone of claim 1 wherein the suppression component comprises one of the group consisting of: water, ethylene glycol, oils, polar and non-polar solvents, lotions and mixtures thereof.

9. (Currently Amended) A method of manufacturing an artificial bone comprising the steps of:

- providing a substrate base material, the substrate base material comprising a polymer;
- curing the substrate base material into a substrate; and

~~_____ at least one of:~~

~~_____ mixing an x ray component into the substrate base material and~~

~~_____ impregnating the substrate with a suppression component, to, in turn, provide an artificial bone which limits dusting, chipping and cracking of the substrate material that includes at least one of the x ray component and the suppression component.~~

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein the step of impregnating comprises the steps of:

- placing the substrate within an autoclave;
- introducing the suppression component; and
- elevating the pressure within the autoclave for a predetermined period of time.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of placing the substrate base material into a mold prior to the step of curing.

12. (Original) The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of finishing the outer surface of the substrate after the step of curing.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9 further comprising the step of mixing an x-ray component into the substrate material prior to the step of curing in an amount sufficient to render the artificial bone opaque to an x-ray ~~wherein each of the steps of mixing and impregnating are executed such that the resulting artificial bone includes each of the x ray component and the suppression component.~~